

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 37-40 are all the claims pending in the application, as claims 14-36 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Preliminary Matters

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1 and cancelled claims 14-36 from further consideration in this application. Applicant is not conceding that the subject matter encompassed by claims 1 and 14-36, prior to this Amendment, is not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner. Claim 1 is amended and claims 14-36 are cancelled in this Amendment solely to facilitate expeditious prosecution. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue claims, including the subject matter encompassed by claims 1 and 14-36, as presented prior to this Amendment, and additional claims in one or more continuing applications.

Interview of March 19, 2008

Applicant thanks the Examiner for a courteous telephonic interview between the Examiner and the Applicant's representatives on March 19, 2008.

During the interview, the current claim amendments were discussed with the Examiner. The Examiner agreed that the amended claims are patentable over all the applied references.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 - Polizzi in view of Lamberton

Claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11-14, 16-25 and 28-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by Polizzi et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0023158; hereinafter "Polizzi") in view of Lamberton et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,779,017; hereinafter "Lamberton"), in further view of

DeBettencourt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,279,001; hereinafter “DeBettencourt”). For at least the following reasons applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 is amended and recites a method for identifying a status corresponding to interactions between a remote application and a data source, the method comprising, *inter alia*, providing a connection manager to facilitate the interface between the interface module and the port module, wherein the connection manager receives a request for the data source from the interface module, and transmits an identifier of an available port module to the interface module, connecting directly the interface module and the port module for communicating independently from the connection manager, wherein the interface module connects directly with the port module based on the identifier transmitted by the connection manager. Support for the amendment may be found at least in paragraph 56 of the specification.

The Examiner acknowledges that Polizzi fails to teach or suggest “connecting directly the interface module and the port module for communicating independently from the connection manager,” and instead relies on Lamberton to disclose this claimed feature.

Lamberton discloses that when load balancer receives an initial request, a server is selected, and the request is forwarded to the server (col. 6, lines 18-40). The server then replies directly to the web browser of the end-user (col. 6, lines 65-67). Lamberton fails to teach or suggest a connection manager transmitting an identifier of an available port module to an interface module, and the interface module connecting directly with the port module based on the identifier.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the applied references. Applicant further submits that claims 3, 5-9 and 11-13 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 - Polizzi in view of Albert

Claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11-14, 16-25 and 28-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by Polizzi et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0023158; hereinafter “Polizzi”) in view of Albert et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,970,913; hereinafter “Albert”), in further view of DeBettencourt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,279,001; hereinafter “DeBettencourt”). For at least the following reasons applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Examiner acknowledges that Polizzi fails to teach or suggest “connecting directly the interface module and the port module for communicating independently from the connection manager,” and instead relies on Albert to disclose this claimed feature.

Albert discloses receiving a connection request at a service manager, and forwarding the connection request to a preferred server (Abstract). Albert fails to teach or suggest a connection manager transmitting an identifier of an available port module to an interface module, and the interface module connecting directly with the port module based on the identifier.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the applied references. Applicant further submits that claims 3, 5-9 and 11-13 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 - Polizzi in view of Phaal

Claim 37 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Polizzi, Albert, and DeBettencourt, in further view of Phaal (U.S. Patent No. 6,138,159).

Neither DeBettencourt nor Phaal address the above-mentioned deficiencies of Polizzi, Albert, or Lamberton.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 37 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 1.

New Claims

Applicant adds new claims 38-40, support for which may be found throughout the specification. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of the subject matter recited therein, and at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Appl. No.: 09/750,432

Attorney Docket No.: A8645
IBM Ref.: STL919990134US2

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Quadeer A. Ahmed
Registration No. 60,835

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON DC SUGHRUE/142133

46159

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: May 28, 2008